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## Nazis Brought to U.S. to Work Against Soviets in Cold War

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In 1945, the U.S. Army was given the names of more than 100 Byelorussian Nazi collaborators, at least 10 of whom were brought secretly to the United States at the height of the Cold War to work as spies and propagandists against the Soviet Union.

When the Army learned the identities of these Byelorussian Nazis on May 14, 1945, it put them in Category One of the War Criminals list, which meant they were suspected of having committed serious war crimes. Two years later, at the most, the Byelorussian Nazis were nowhere to be found on the list of war criminals and by the mid-1950s were emigrating to the United States, Britain and Canada as Cold War warriors against the Russians.

Some of these facts are contained in documents at the National Archives, others come from interviews with sources at the Justice Department and the General Accounting Office.

Still others are the result of interviews with John J. Loftus, a former prosecutor at the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations. Loftus charged last Sunday on the CBS television program "60 Minutes" that as many as 300 Byelorussian Nazis were smuggled into the United States by Army and State Department intelligence agencies who covered up the smuggling operation for the last 35 years.

Whatever the number, none came in legally under the so-called "Hundred Persons Act" of 1948 that allows the American president to bring in up to 100 aliens every year without passing them through immigration. This was revealed in an interview with Loftus and confirmed by sources at the Justice Department.

Some of the Byelorussians identified by Hyrnkjewitsch as Nazi collaborators were suspected war criminals.

One person on the list was Ivan Jerczenko, who became the puppet ruler of the White Ruthenian state at Minsk in 1942. Loftus said he died a naturalized American in Binghamton, N.Y., a few years ago. Another was Stanislaw Stankievich, who had been editor of an anti-Semitic Ruthenian newspaper and was mayor of the Byelorussian city of Borissov.

"One day in 1941, he ordered the police to round up the city's 6,500 Jews and kill them all in one day, which they did," Loftus told The Washington Post. "Stankievich died peacefully in his bed in Queens, N.Y., a little more than a year ago."

"I have seen the classified list of people who emigrated here under the Hundred Persons Act," Loftus said, "and none of the Byelorussians is on the list." Said a Justice source: "To our knowledge, that is correct."

The identities of many of the Byelorussian Nazis are contained in an interrogation by 3rd Army intelligence officers on May 14, 1945, of a Polish-born Byelorussian named Stanislaus Hyrnkjewitsch, which was declassified by the Army and turned over to the National Archives in 1973.

In the debriefing, Hyrnkjewitsch identifies more than 100 Byelorussians who collaborated with the Nazis when the Germans set up a puppet "White Ruthenian" regime in the Russian city of Minsk in 1941.

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